Amendments to the Claims:

Please amend the claims as shown.

1-20. (canceled)

21. (currently amended) A storage medium which stores a software system for providing a programming environment to create device-independent functionality among ~~for~~ automation devices in an automation system of the type including a plurality of automation devices, the system comprising:

~~first mechanisms~~ one or more automation engineering editors for generating solutions for one or more of the automation devices;

a compiler for translating the solutions into an intermediate language in a runtime framework; and

an automation device-specific adapter for each of the automation devices, each adapter providing a translation of a solution into instructions which can be interpreted by an automation device, the software system providing ~~encapsulating~~ encapsulation of specific functions of at least one of the automation devices and ~~for~~ providing a base functionality of the one automation device, the editors and compiler ~~; and~~

~~second mechanisms, superimposed on the first mechanisms, for~~ providing an ~~general functionality and/or~~ automation functionality in a standard framework for application among automation devices having different command sets for being programmed.

22-23. (canceled)

24. (currently amended) The storage medium ~~system~~ according to claim 21, wherein the software system is provided ~~for use by a development system~~ for developing control software in the automation system..

25. (currently amended) The storage medium ~~system~~ according to claim 21, wherein the software system provides ~~is provided for providing~~ technological objects for automation devices.

26. (currently amended) ~~The~~ A system including the storage medium according to claim 21, further comprising: a memory for storing automation solutions for recurring tasks.

27. (currently amended) The system according to claim 26 ~~21~~, ~~wherein the system is~~ adapted for using the Internet and/or an intranet for transmitting data.

28. (currently amended) The storage medium ~~system~~ according to claim 21, wherein an automation-specifically designed programming language is used for developing control software for the automation system.

29. (currently amended) A method for providing device-independent functionality for automation devices, the method comprising:

providing a compiler for receiving solutions from one or more automation engineering editors and translating the solutions into an intermediate language in a runtime framework; ~~encapsulating specific functions of at least one automation device and providing a base functionality of the automation device by a first mechanism;~~ and

providing ~~a general functionality and/or automation functionality by a second mechanism.~~ an automation device-specific adapter for each of the automation devices, each adapter providing a translation of a solution from the intermediate language into instructions which can be interpreted by an automation device, the software system providing encapsulation of specific functions of at least one of the automation devices, the editors and compiler providing an automation functionality in a standard framework for application among automation devices having different command sets for being programmed.

30. (canceled)

31. (currently amended) The method according to claim 29, wherein ~~the general functionality and/or~~ automation functionality is provided independent~~ly~~ of the automation device.

32. (previously presented) The method according to claim 29, wherein a development system is used for developing control software.

33. (previously presented) The method according to claim 29, further comprising: providing technological objects for the automation devices.

34. (previously presented) The method according to claim 29, further comprising: storing automation solutions for recurring tasks.

35. (currently amended) The method according to claim 28, wherein the Internet ~~and/or~~ an intranet is ~~/are~~ used for transmitting data.

36. (currently amended) The method according to claim 29 including providing a ~~A~~ programming language automation-specifically adapted for developing control software. ~~for a method according to claim 29.~~

37. (canceled)

38. (previously presented) The method ~~programming language~~ according to claim 36, wherein compilers are provided for mapping the ~~programming~~ intermediate language onto a ~~the~~ target platform.

39 - 41. (canceled)